

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 IO-10 /078 W

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R 221145Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1345

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, GW, UK, US, FR, WB

SUBJECT: MOVE OF SCHEDULED IGS SERVICES TO TEGEL SOUTH

REF: BONN 13172

1. SUMMARY: AS RESULT FAA INSPECTION OF PAN AM FACILITIES
AT TEGEL AIRPORT, PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT MOVE ON SEPT 1
IN DOUBT. WE THINK MOVE WILL TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED.

END SUMMARY

2. MAJOR BERLIN NEWSPAPERS FRONT-PAGED AUGUST 21 AND 22
POTENTIAL DELAY IN TRANSFER OF PAN AM/BA TRAFFIC FROM TEMPELHOF
TO TEGEL AS RESULT INADEQUACIES FOUND AT TEGEL BY FAA
INSPECTOR ON AUG 20. MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOUND IN
INSPECTION WERE INCOMPLETE ROOF ON MAINTENANCE HANGAR,
UNFINISHED RADIO OPERATIONS AREA, AND ABSENCE OF PLUMBING
IN EMPLOYEES LOCKER ROOM FACILITIES.

3. PRESS STORIES AROSE FROM LETTER PAN AM SENT TO
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TRANSPORT SENATOR HARRY LIEHR EVENING OF AUG 20 AND

RELEASED TO BERLIN PRESS SHORTLY THEREAFTER. IN LETTER PAN AM STATED IT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET SEPT 1 SHIFT BUT NOTED THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE UNLESS "EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS" WERE MADE BY LIEHR'S OFFICE AND BFG.

4. PAN AM BERLIN MANAGER GALLAGHER ADMITTED TO MISOFF AUG 21 THAT OBJECTIVE OF RELEASING LETTER TO PRESS WAS TO MAKE PUBLIC RECORD OF REMAINING FLAWS AT TEGEL SO THAT, IF IGS SERVICE FROM TEGEL AFTER SEPT 1 NOT UP TO STANDARDS OF TEMPELHOF, BFG WOULD BEAR RESPONSIBILITY. TRANSPORT SENATOR LIEHR APPEARED INDEED PLACE PRIMARY BLAME ON BFG IN AUG 21 STATEMENT. GALLAGHER PROMISED "ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WE WILL BE AT TEGEL ON SEPT 1." HE ADDED THAT FAA INSPECTOR HAD AGREED THAT PAN AM SHOULD CONTINUE TO USE ITS EXISTING TEMPELHOF RADIO FACILITIES AFTER SEPT 1 UNTIL TEGEL FACILITIES COMPLETED. GALLAGHER ALSO BELIEVED PAN AM CAN COPE WITH DEFICIENCIES IN HANGAR, BUT REAL PROBLEM MAY BE PAN AM EMPLOYEES UNION UNWILLINGNESS TO WORK AT TEGEL UNTIL LOCKER ROOM FACILITIES READY. GALLAGHER PREDICTED ADDITIONAL UNFAVORABLE ARTICLES ABOUT BFG IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

5. TO CRESCENDO OF PRESS CRITICISM RECALLING MANY PREVIOUS DELAYS IN MOVE TO TEGEL, SEN LIEHR ALSO PUBLICLY STATED HIS EXPECTATION THAT CORRECTIONS REQUIRED BY FAA WILL BE COMPLETED DURING COMING WEEK. WE NOTE THAT 60,000 VISITORS TO BERLIN RADIO EXHIBITION (AUG 29-SEPT 7) AS WELL AS TRANSIT TRAFFIC TO LEIPZIG FAIR (AUG 31-SEPT 7) MEANS MOVE WILL OCCUR AT EXCEPTIONALLY BUSY MOMENT IN IGS TRAFFIC.

6. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ TELEPHONED MISOFF EVENING OF AUG 20 TO SEEK BACKGROUND ON THIS AS RESULT PRESS QUERIES TO HIM. HE WAS ADVISED THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IF DEFICIENCIES CORRECTED IN TIME, THERE NO REASON WHY MOVE CANNOT TAKE PLACE ON SCHEDULE.

7. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY COMMENT REFTEL THAT PAN AM'S ARRANGEMENTS AT TEGEL ARE HIGHLY FAVORABLE. WE DO NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THINK THAT REMAINING DEFICIENCIES AT TEGEL, HOWEVER IMPORTANT THEY MAY BE IN OPERATIONAL TERMS, ARE MATTERS WHICH DIRECTLY CONCERN ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CIVIL AVIATION. ACCORDINGLY, IN ANSWER TO PRESS INQUIRIES WE ARE STICKING TO HIGH GROUND BY SAYING THAT DEFICIENCIES AT TEGEL ARE TECHNICAL MATTERS TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN PAN AM AND SENAT'S AGENT, BFG. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES, US PRESS SPOKESMAN HAS CAREFULLY POINTED OUT

THAT FAA DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN WITH PAN AM ONLY AND THAT
FAA'S AUTHORITY IS LIMITED TO US CARRIER AND DOES NOT
EXTEND TO OWNERS OR OPERATORS OF AIRPORT.GEORGE

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